

[14th March 1960]

## APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No 336 asked by Sri S. Lazar and Sri K. Sattanatha Karayalar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 14th March 1960, page 383 supra.]

*Research work done in the Agricultural College, Coimbatore.*

The research work done at the Agricultural College and Research Institute covers a vast range of subjects. Briefly, the research work in the main is directed towards increasing agricultural production in all its aspects by—

(i) evolving methods for improving cultivation practices of different crops of the State on scientific lines;

(ii) evolving better strains of seeds for the various crops;

(iii) evolving better practices of manuring and fertilizing the crops;

(iv) evolving better methods of pest control and plant protection;

(v) designing better and more suitable implements and equipment required for agriculture; and

(vi) conducting soil analysis with a view to find out the various deficiencies in a particular soil and advising the types of fertilizers that will be required and their proportionate percentage, etc.

The interested agriculturists, with the aid of the Extension staff in the field, adopt the methods recommended by the Agricultural Department in their own fields and they refer the difficulties and/or achievements to the Department for further advice.

The Extension division of the Agricultural Department is the main agency to carry to the agriculturists results of the research by means of publicity through pamphlets, leaflets, posters, radio talks, propaganda meetings and other educational activities. A monthly journal in Tamil 'Mezhichelvam' also carries information on the scientific agriculture in simple language to the agriculturists. The Community Development Agency at the Block level is the most important one to undertake extension activities in agriculture in the blocks through the Extension officers in agriculture and the Grama Sevaks. Demonstration plots are laid and various practices as recommended by the Agricultural Department are demonstrated in practice in the fields of agriculturists by the Block staff. The functional Village Leaders' training camp organized by the Block agency assemble together agriculturists in each block at various camps where not only demonstrations are held and talks given but exchange of ideas between the ryots from various villages is also promoted. In this State, 2,690 camps have been held in Block areas till the end of August 1959 in which 128,447 agriculturists have been trained in all matters connected with improvement of agriculture. This has been one of the very successful methods of disseminating the knowledge to agriculturists.